

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-18 and 20-37 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 18, 36 and 37 are amended; and no claims are cancelled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 1, 3, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 18, 20-24, 26 and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,443,252 to Morinaga in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,078,380 to Kitazawa; Claims 8 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Morinaga in view of Kitazawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,361,038 to Tada; Claims 10-13, 15, 16, 27-30, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Morinaga in view of Kitazawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,267,371 to Jessop in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,195 to Sagara; and Claims 14, 17, 31 and 34 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, the raising member and the raising and lowering member are shown for example, in Figure 12a as elements 9 and 24. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1, 18, 26 and 37 are amended by the present amendment. Additionally, disclosure related to the features of the raising member and the raising and lowering member, is set forth at least at page 17, line 22 – page 19, line 7. With respect to the end detection member, this feature is discussed in the specification at least at page 19 line 29 to page 20 line 21.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the applied art does not teach or suggest a tray main body having a stacking plate for recording media, and a raising member located above the top surface of the stacking plate and having a first end and a second end, the first end configured to be attached to the stacking plate and configured to raise the stacking plate toward the recording media feeding member; and a raising and lowering member connected to the second end of raising member and configured to raise and lower the stacking plate, wherein the raising and lowering member is configured to raise the stacking plate to a predetermined position when the cassette is installed in the sheet feeding device, as similarly recited in the independent claims.

Instead, Morinaga discloses a pressurizing lever 59 having horizontal arms 59b for rocking the intermediate plate 56 in an up and down direction. The pressurizing levers 59 are pivotally mounted on a shaft 59a disposed ahead of the front end of the intermediate plate 56. A pressurizing shaft 61 is disposed ahead of the pressurizing levers 59. Tension coil springs 63 and 65 are connected between the pressurizing shaft 61 and vertical arms 59c of the lever 59. As best shown in Figures 12 and 13, the horizontal arms 59b are disposed below the front end of the intermediate plate 56.

Kitazawa does not make up for the deficiencies of Morinaga discussed above. Specifically, Kitazawa discloses that the paper receiving plate 87b is urged upwardly by the paper lifting member 85b located in cassette feeder 17a. The paper lifting member 85b is located below the receiving plate 87b.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion for having a raising member located above the top surface of the stacking plate and the first end of the raising member configured to be attached to the stacking plate with the second end of the raising member configured to

be attached to the raising and lowering member. According to the features of the claimed invention, the raising and lowering member is configured to move the stacking plate to a predetermined position when the cassette is installed in the sheet feeding device.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

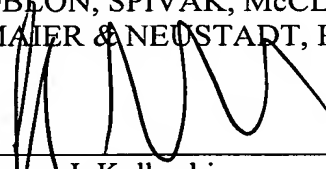
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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